2nd BN(FA)395th REGT(TS)

FIRE SUPPORT: A COMMANDER'S VIEW

M2

MANEUVER

A DEFINITION

Two factions, usually armor or infantry, arrayed on a battlefield for the purpose of separating two warring artillery forces.

An Unknown Redleg

MANEUVER

A DEFINITION

Employment of forces on the battlefield through movement of combat forces in relation to the enemy, supported by *fire* or *fire potential* from all sources, to gain potential advantage from which to destroy or threaten destruction of the enemy to accomplish the mission.

FM 101-5-1

FIRE SUPPORT

A DEFINITION

The collective and coordinated integration and synchronization of the fires and effects of armed aircraft, land-based and sea-based indirect fire systems, and electronic warfare systems that directly support combat forces against ground targets to delay, disrupt, destroy, divert, damage, and limit enemy forces, combat formations, and facilities in pursuit of operational and tactical objectives.

FM 101-5-1

Fire and Movement

The concept of applying fires from all sources to suppress, neutralize or destroy the enemy, and the tactical movement of forces in relation to the enemy.

FM 101-5-1

Commander's View of Fires

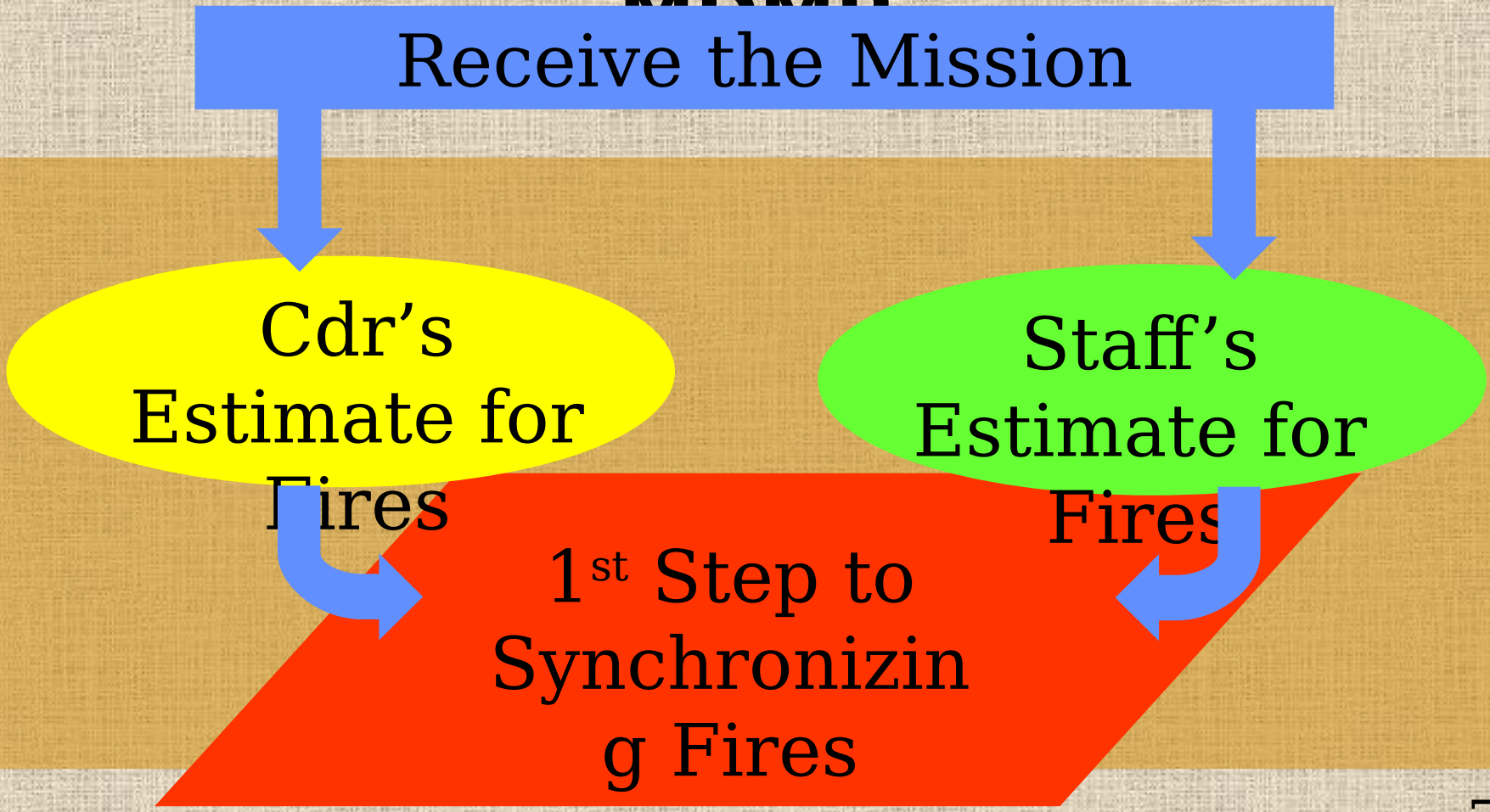
"Fire without movement is indecisive."

"Exposed movement without fire is disastrous."

"There must be effective fire *combined* with skillful movement."

***Infantry in Battle*, 1939**

Commander's Fires in the MDMP



Commander's Estimate of Fire Support

Things to consider…

- High payoff targets
  - Method of engagement
  - Effects criteria
- Guidance for fires
- Observer plan
- Employment of COLTs
- Special munitions
- Task & purpose of fires
- Counterfire zones & radar use
- SEAD guidance
- FSCMs
- Synchronization and focus of fires with maneuver
- Attack guidance
- Protected target list (NFAs)

Visualize your fires! And develop your guidance based on these points.

Staff's Estimate of Fire Support

Suggested areas for analysis, but based on the mission:

- Fire Support status, capabilities, and limitations
- Specified & implied tasks
- Recommended Task & Purpose for fires
- Recommended HVTs by event or phase, with the S2
- Impact of IPB, TVA, and battlefield geometry on FS
- Protected target list (NFAs)
- Recommended timeline additions to the Bde timeline
- Recommended CCIR, with the S2 & S3

Re: Staff's Estimate's are <u>to</u> the Commander, and <u>for</u> the Staff.

Staff's Estimate & Informal Targeting

Informal staff targeting occurs…

- During mission analysis between the S2, S3, FSO, Engineer
- Refined during course of action development
- Validated during course of action analysis

Commander's input to targeting occurs…

- Following the mission analysis brief, as commander's guidance
- Following the course of action brief, as commander's guidance
- With the approval/modification by the commander of the staff''s recommended course of action

Commander's informal targeting occurs with his estimate

Mission Analysis Brief

From the FSO, key points of his estimate…

- Status of organic Fire Support
- Additional Fire Support assets
- Capabilities & limitations of Fires available
- Recommended Task & Purpose for Fires **(EFSTs)**
- Recommendations for employment of Fire Support assets
- Other key information from higher HQs impacting on Fires in support of the Brigade's fight

Commander's Guidance
following the Mission Analysis Brief

- Friendly and Enemy COA's- how many? priorities?
- CCIR
- Recon guidance
- Risk guidance
- Deception guidance
- Fire Support Guidance
- Mobility/Survivability Guidance
- Security Measures to implement
- Other concerns for CS and CSS
- Other info the commander wants the staff to consider
- Time plan
- Type of order to issue
- Type of rehearsal to conduct

Chap 5, FM 101-5

Commander's Guidance
for Fire Support

Articulate your visualization of Fires, per your Cdr's estimate

- Fire Support employment…provide a general summary on your intent
- Approval of Task & Purpose (w/ any refinements)… this is the framework for development of the fire support plan **(EFST)**
- Endstate of this guidance is a general concept of fires reflecting your commander's estimate, staff recommendations, and your visualization of the fight

Note: Brigade Commander's own the Fire Support assets… the EFSTs… and must approve any changes. Task Force Commander's can task their own FS assets with internal EFSTs.

Example of Commander's Guidance

"My guidance for fires… I want to range the BRAG with at least 1/3 of my guns before any penetration begins. Don't hold up the artillery to shoot at OPs, unless forward movement by the TFs is seriously hindered. Get the guns forward quickly. I want additional observation assets provided to the CAV and my main effort. I want to mass both battalions at the point of penetration, so just keep the BRAG suppressed once breaching operations begin. Breach sites, and the BSA, are my critical operations… keep the enemy artillery from disrupting those operations. I approve all Tasks Recommended, but I want to defeat the BRAG just prior to our penetration… look at CAS to accomplish this."

Describe your vision of Fires

Fire Support Tasks
as articulated in the Commander's Guidance

Give Fire Support defined direction

Validates/modifies Tasks and Purpose to the Fire Support BOS

- *Why?* Identifies those formations, whose attack is considered critical by the commander, for detailed attack planning
- *For whom?* Provides direction to Fire Support planners, and alerts other BOSs to mission support needs
- Allows the Field Artillery battalion to begin parallel planning along with the brigade's MDMP
- Basis for Essential Fire Support Tasks (EFSTs)
- *How many?* Typically 3-5 tasks per operation… based on HVT/HPTs identified

What is an EFST?

Essential Fire Support Task

A task for fire support to accomplish that is required to support a combined arms operation. Failure to achieve an EFST may require the commander to alter his tactical or operational plan. A full-developed EFST has a task, purpose, method, and effe

Ft Sill White Paper
16 SEP 98

Task & Purpose
of the EFST

EFSTs allow for efficient staff action

- Keystones of the Fire Support plan
- Integrated into COA development
- Basis for allocation of Fire Support assets
- Passed to FA Bn for parallel planning and the development of Essential Field Artillery Tasks (EFATs)
- Passed to Bn Cdr's for Fire Support integration at the battalion level with FS asset allocations from brigade
- 3-5 EFSTs become the Fires paragraph

FIRES PARAGRAPH

Format for any EFST in a Fires paragraph includes:

TASK. Describes the targeting objectives fires must achieve against a specific enemy formation's function or capability.

Memory Aid: TASK = Objective, Formation, Function.

* Objective: Disrupt, Delay, Limit, Destroy (__%)
* Formation: Specific element or subelement of the enemy.
* Function: What is the formation doing that is unacceptable? What we want the formation to do/ not do?

EXAMPLE (Defense)

Objective:	**Formation:**	**Function:**
Destroy (60%)	Of the Mech Plts	Overlooking the northern and southern Breach Points

FIRES PARAGRAPH

PURPOSE. Describes the maneuver or operational purpose for the task.

Memory Aid: Purpose = Maneuver purpose.

EXAMPLE:

Purpose:

To allow ME Task Force to breach without disruption from coordinated direct fires from enemy platoons in over-watching positions.

FIRES PARAGRAPH

METHOD. Describes how the task and purpose will be achieved.

Memory Aid: METHOD = Priority, Allocation, Restrictions.

It includes:

* POF
* TARGETS
* OBSERVERS(PRI/ALT)
* TRIGGERS
* TGT ALLOCATION
* PRIORITY TGTs
* FPFs
* RESTRICTIONS(FSCMs)
* SPECIAL MUNITIONS
* IEW
* CAS/ATK AVIATION
* OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

Drafted during COA development.

FIRES PARAGRAPH

EFFECTS. Attempts to quantify the successful accomplishment of the task. Provides the looker with a measure of completion of the task.

EXAMPLE:

Effects:

Destroy 3-4 BMPs of the Mech Plts able to place direct fires on Task Force breach points in the northern zone.

Drafted during COA development.

Course of Action Development Briefings

The scheme of Fires

- The FS plan should reflect original Task & Purpose, or approved modifications
- Draft Method & Effects should support the COA
- Can add/drop EFSTs based on the particulars of the COA
- Should include all available Fire Support assets

Step 2 to sync'd Fires

The Cdr's approves or refines his intent

COA Analysis Briefing

The FSO presents the complete Fire Support Plan

- EFSTs are approved
- Detailed Method & Effects are provided and include Priorities, Allocations, and Restrictions
- Taskings per each EFST and per Targeting meetings are included in WARNO #3

The Cdr approves the Plan for issue as an order

Step 3 to sync'd Fires

FIRES PARAGRAPH

Bullet Format

Task: Destroy (60%) of the Mech Plts overlooking the northern and southern breach points **Purpose:** To allow each Task Force to breach without disruption from coordinated direct fires from enemy platoons in over-watching positions.

Method:

NORTH (ME): POF to TF 1 (ME).

- COLT 1 refine AC2001, COLT 2 refine AC4001, AC4002; COLT 3 ALT for AC2001, AC4001. AC$002(Series JACK)
- Series JACK (AC2001, AC4001, AC4002) is the brigade prep. Trigger is initiated by TM Support Cdr for TF 1 prior to his occupying the support position for ME breach operation. Repeat firing of Series Jack targets are conducted as separate missions only.

Upon completion of prep,

- AC2005 750m smoke screen, 45 min duration triggered by TM Breach to isolate the northern Mech Plt in over-watch,
- Div CFL PL Red o/o PL Gold.

Effects: Destroy 3 BMPs of the two Mech Plts able to place direct fires on Task Force breach points in the northern zones.

Formal Targeting Meeting

To complement the MDMP…

- The targeting team, supervised by the Bde XO, includes the results of informal targeting into the daily process
- Can occur after war-gaming to capture the details of COA analysis
- EFSTs are confirmed or new ones issued as a part of the formal cell meeting
- All BOS participation is critical to an integrated plan
- The commander should be briefed on the results

Step 4 to sync'd Fires

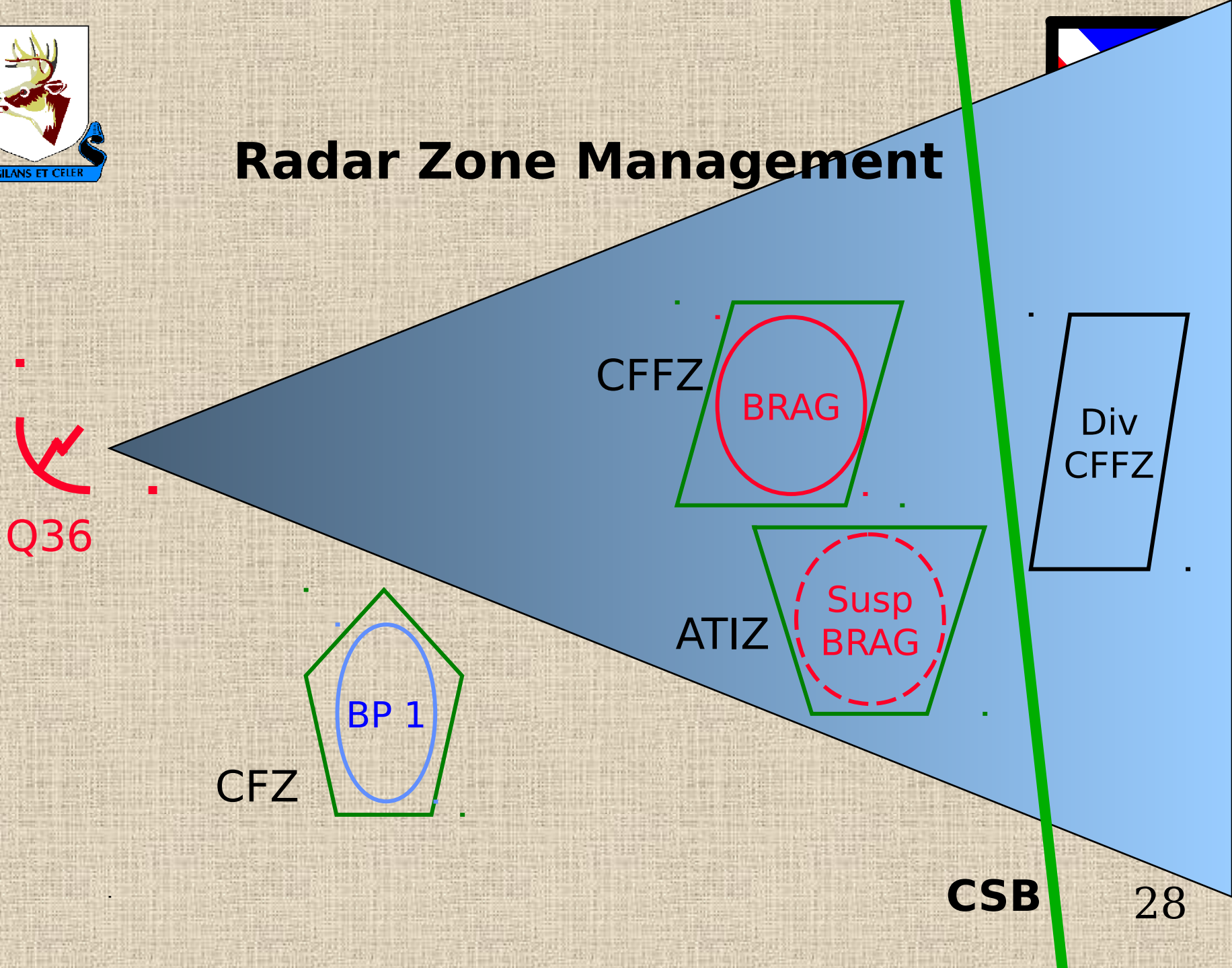
Elements of an effective FS plan

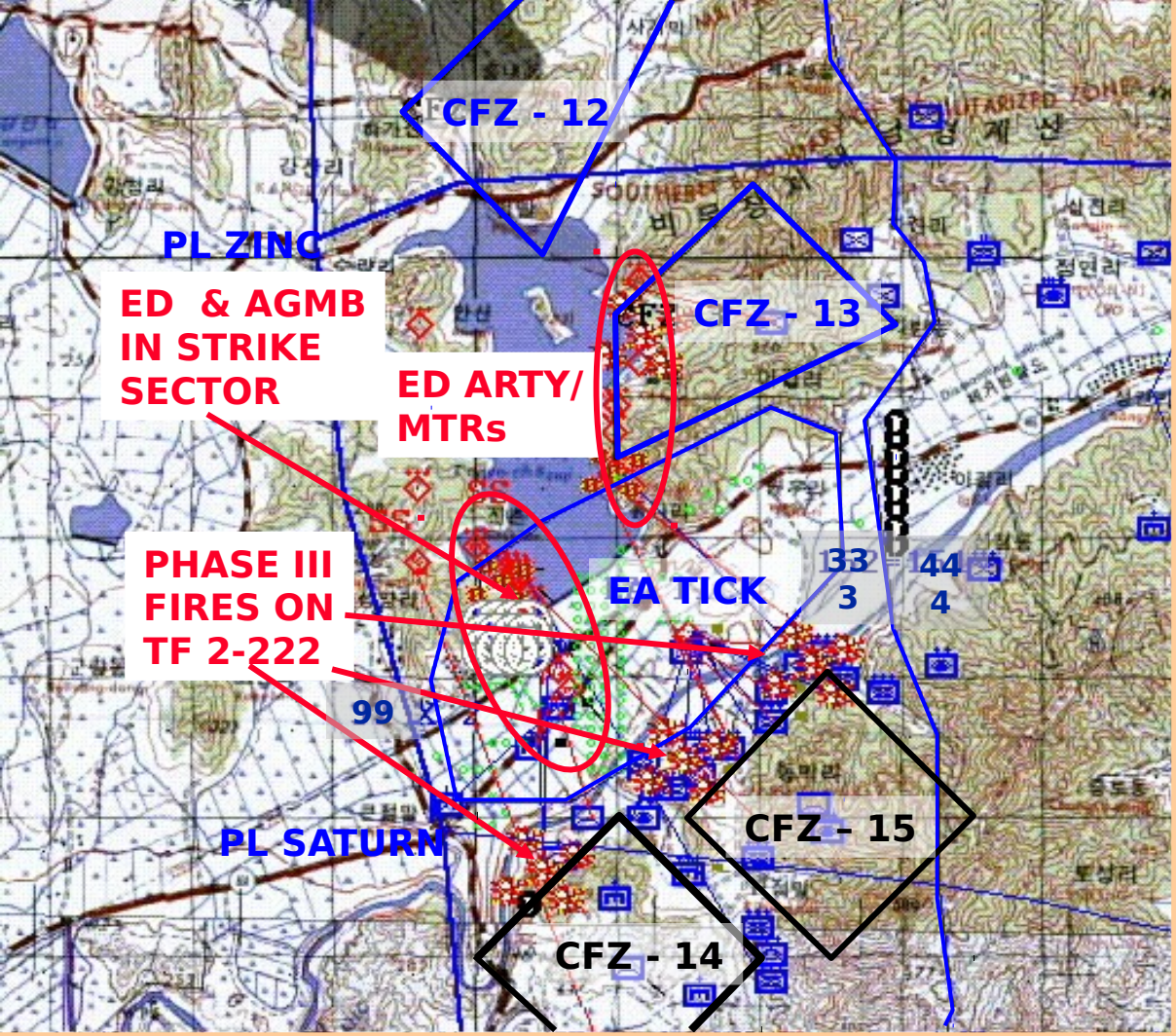
Fire Support ain't easy...

Keys to Successful Fire Support

- See the Fight
  - Commander/FSCOORD/FSO cross-talk
- Clearance of Fires
  - Fire Support Coordination Measures
  - Maneuver Graphics
  - Pre-Cleared Fires
  - Communications Structure and CFF
- Radar Zones Management
- Focus of Fires
  - TASKS
  - Massing
  - Dilemmas
- Integrated Fires and Obstacles
- COLT employment
- FA positioning
- CAS

Radar Zone Management





FORCE PROTECTION & RADAR ZONE MANAGEMENT

-Phase III fires on TF 2-222.

-CFZs 12 & 15 active but maneuver forces no longer there.

-CFZs 14 & 15 not activated or refined on BPs.

-CFZ 13 not refined on BP.

-Attack guidance is <u>NEUTRALIZE</u> fire support.

OPFOR FIRES ON TF 2-222 (FORCE PROTECTION)

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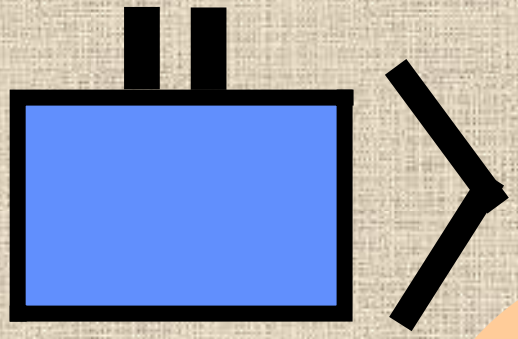
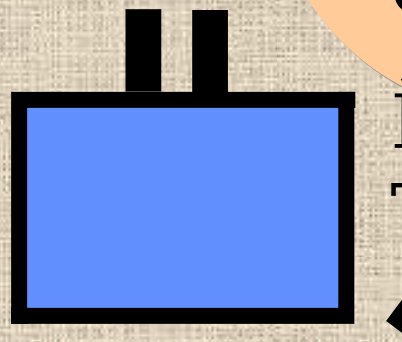
CFZ - ACTIVE

CFZ – NOT ACTIVE

Focus of Fires



Common pitfall… too many targets result in too little massing… not what the commander expected!



Focus on TASKS not TARGETS!

Top Down Fire Planning, Bottom Up Refinement…

Series Joe: AC0111,12,13: 3x Plts at POP

Brigade thru TF to Observer

Good plans and refinement resulting from good wargaming and Commander's guidance prevents lack of focus

Observer thru TF to Brigade

AC0001: Co at POP

Dilemmas

Counter-fire Fight

Vs.

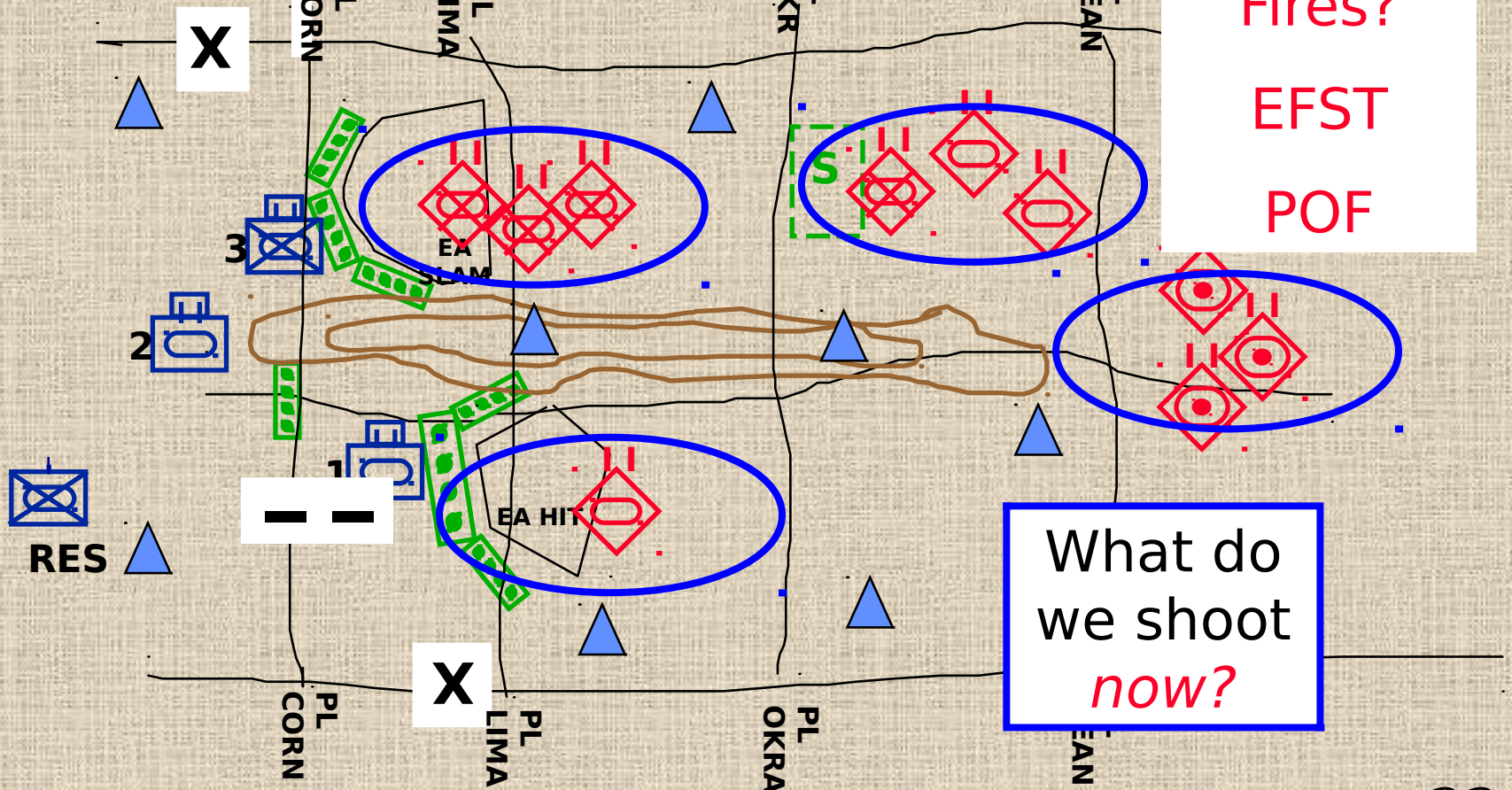
Close Fight

Current HPT

Vs.

Follow-on HPT

Common Dilemmas

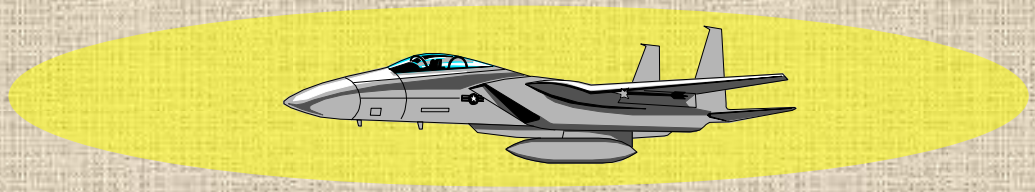


Priority of Fires

- ***POF* and *Focus of Fires (EFSTs)***
- ***POF* applies *only when there is competition for fires***
- **Along with attack guidance, *speeds responsiveness***

CAS Employment

- **Integration with the maneuver and fire support plans**
- **Detailed CAS plans/use of CAS matrix: SEAD, Target mark, ACA**
- **Failures due to… changed mission, abort due to possible fratricide, failure to set conditions, ran out of fuel…**
- **Don’t let CAS shut down the FS system**



Successful Fire Support execution…

Begins with well planned EFSTs…

COMMANDER

…and a good ability to “see the battlefield”.

BDE FSO

…and sound application of Fire Support TTPs…

FSCOORD

Successful Fire Support execution…

Begins with well planned EFSTs…

Identify Priorities	*Allocate Resources*	*Establish Restrictions*
Priority of Fire	COLT plan	Maneuver graphics
CAS Priority Targets	CAS plan	Fire Support Coordination Measures
	Radar zone plan	
	Observation Plan	
	FA Support Plan	

Successful Fire Support execution…

Massed Fires

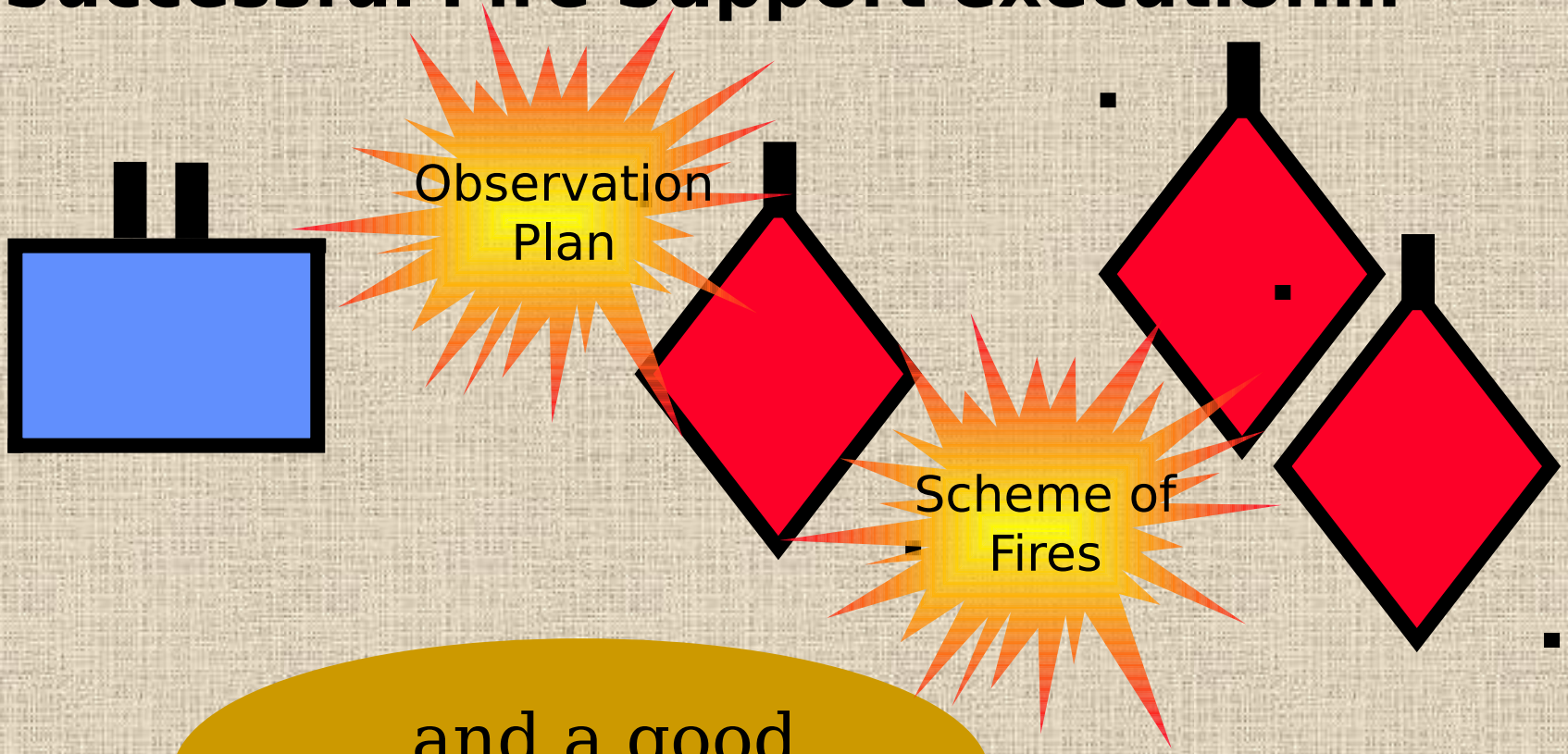
Range to depth of battlefield

…and sound application of Fire Support TTPs…

Situational Awareness

Use the Mortars

Successful Fire Support execution…



…and a good ability to “see the battlefield”.

A Commander's View of Fires

Maneuver your fires -

Then exploit with maneuver.

GEN Eric Shinseki